

**Abstract of the Invention**

A dual-layer magnetic recording medium comprising a non-magnetic substrate having a front side and a back side, the front side having at least one lower support layer formed over the substrate and at least one magnetic upper layer formed over the at least one support layer, wherein the magnetic upper layer includes magnetic pigment particles having an average particle length of less than about 75 nanometers, and a binder system for the magnetic particles, and the lower support layer includes at least one non-magnetic pigment and a binder system therefor, said binder system having a lower Tg from said binder system for said upper layer, said magnetic recording medium having two edges, said magnetic recording medium exhibiting substantially less cracking on said edges when compared to a dual-layer magnetic recording medium comprising a magnetic upper layer and a lower support layer having substantially identical binder systems.